

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /072 W

----- 047510

R 060945Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6681

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, JO, IS, XF

SUBJ: ANWAR KHATIB'S VIEWS: GOI ACTOONS ON WEST BANK; HUSSEIN'S  
POSITION; PEACE MOVES

REF: JERUSALEM 2126 (1974) AND 168

1. SUMMARY. IN MARCH 4 CONVERSATION LEADING EAST JERUSALEM  
POLITICAN ANWAR KHATIB MADE STRONG PLEA FOR US ACTION TO STOP  
EXPANSION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK (E.G.  
MAALE ADUMIM). HE EXPRESSED VIEW HUSSEIN'S POSITION ON WEST  
BANK STRENGTHENED DURING RECENT WEEKS BUT CONCERN AT LACK OF  
INDICATION THAT PEACE EFFORTS WILL FOCUS ON WEST BANK PROBLEM  
ANYTIME SOON. HE SAID THERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GOI EFFORTS  
TO CREATE LOCAL WEST BANK ADMINISTRATION BUT THOUGHT SOME WEST  
BANK LEADERS (NOT INCLUDING HIMSELF) WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACT  
AS NEGOTIATING AGENT FOR PLO IF ASKED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME AND CONGENOFF MARCH 4, EAST JERUSALEM  
NOTABLE AND HUSSEIN SUPPORTER ANWAR KHATIB MADE STRONG PLEA FOR US  
ACTION TO PERSUADE GOI FROM PROCEEDING WITH FURTHER SETTLEMENT  
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ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT PEACE EFFORTS WOULD

NOT FOCUS ON WEST BANK ISSUE FOR SOME TIME AND THAT MEANWHILE ISRAELIS

WOULD SO STRENGTHEN AND CONSOLIDATE POSITION ON WEST BANK THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE OF NEGOTIATING ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. THIS IS GOI DESIGN, HE BELIEVES, AND URGED EARLY ACTION "TO STOP THEM FROM TAKING OUR LAND."

3. HE HAD JUST MET WITH DELEGATION FROM BEIT UMAR (BETWEEN BETHLEHEM AND HEBRON) WHO TOLD HIM MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS CONTACTING OWNERS OF 8000 DUNAM STRETCH IN THAT AREA, PRESUMABLY FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES. KHATIB ALSO CITED MAALE ADUMIM ON JERUSALEM-JERICO ROAD; EXPANSION EASTWARD TOWARD BANI NA'IM OF KIRYAT ARBA NEAR HEBRON, NEW HIGHWAY TO KIRYAT ARBA; SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN KHADR AREA SOUTH OF BETHLEHEM; AND WENT ON NEW SETTLEMENT EAST OF TUBAS, TOWARD JORDAN VALLEY (WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF THIS).

4. DESPITE UNHAPPINESS ON THIS SCORE, KHATIB APPEARED SOMEWHAT LESS PESSIMISTIC THAN LAST DEC (JERUSALEM 2126) ABOUT FUTURE, APPARENTLY IN PART AS RESULT OF RENEWED KISSINGER ACTIVITY IN AREA, BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED OVER LACK OF ATTENTION IN PEACE EFFORTS TO WEST BANK PROBLEM. ANOTHER APPARENT REASON FOR HIS MORE HOPEFUL ATTITUDE IS HIS CONVICTION THAT HUSSEIN'S POSITION ON WEST BANK HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED IN RECENT WEEKS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO TWO PRINCIPAL FACTORS: PLO'S FAILURE TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING FOLLOWING ARAFAT UNGA APPEARANCE AND SIZEABLE GOJ GRANTS AND LOANS DURING RECENT WEEKS TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES AND INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING IN EAST JERUSALEM. HE SAID HE HAS URGED HUSSEIN TO INCREASE FUND GRANTS EVEN FURTHER, ESPECIALLY TO ARAB INSTITUTIONS IN EAST JERUSALEM (HOSPITALS, ORPHANAGES, SCHOOLS, ETC.) SINCE IT IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN THESE FOR THE FUTURE.

5. KHATIB HAD NO ANSWER TO QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF RABAT DECISION AND ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PLO BUT SUGGESTED THERE WERE SOME WEST BANK LEADERS WHO WOULD ACCEPT A PLO INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE ON ITS BEHALF. HE WOULD NOT, HE SAID, AND ASSERTED THAT "THERE IS NO PLACE AT GENEVA FOR PLO" AND NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE BETWEEN GOVTS. PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS SUCH SHOULD BE LEFT FOR LATER STAGE. AT  
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SAME TIME HE DID NOT ENTIRELY DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF JOINT GOJ-PLO DELEGATION TO GENEVA.

6. QUERIED OVER RECURRING REPORTS THAT GOI HAS NO PLANS TO TURN OVER ADMINISTRATION OF WEST BANK TO LOCAL RESIDENTS, KHATIB SAID THERE NOTHING NEW ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT NO LOCAL LEADERSHIP WOULD GO ALONG WITH SUCH GOI PLANS. HE NOTED THAT AMMAN WAS PRESSURING WEST BANK ARAB OFFICIALS TO GIVE UP FOUR WEST BANK-

WIDE POSITIONS ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOR ARABS IN  
HEALTH, HOSPITAL SUPERVISION, EDUCATION AND VETERINARY SERVICES.  
GOJ HAD DISMISSED EDUCATION OFFICER FROM JORDANIAN CIVIL  
SERVICE (MANY WEST BANK OFFICIALS STILL RETAIN THIS STATUS) AFTER  
HE DECIDED TO RETAIN NEW APPOINTMENT; HEALTH OFFICER HAS  
RESIGNED IN ORDER TO AVOID SIMILAR FATE, AND HOSPITALS OFFICER TOLD  
KHATIB HE WOULD RESIGN IF NECESSARY TO RETAIN GOJ STATUS.  
FOURTH APPOINTMENT MORE RECENT BUT GOJ WILL NO DOUBT EXERT PRESSURE  
IN THAT CASE ALSO.

7. COMMENT: KHATIB IS PROBABLY RIGHT THAT HUSSEIN'S POSITION  
HAS STRENGTHENED IN GENERAL SENSE ON WEST BANK. WE DOUBT THIS  
AFFECTS BASIC IDENTIFICATION OF MAJORITY WITH PLO OR THEIR DESIRE  
FOR STATE SEPARATE FROM JORDAN. IN ANY EVENT, AS IN PAST, VIEWS OF  
WEST BANKERS LIKELY TO HAVE FAR LESS INFLUENCE ON DEVELOPMENTS  
WITHIN ARAB CAMP, INCLUDING PLO-GOJ RELATIONS, THAN OUTSIDE  
FACTORS, SUCH AS VIEWS AND ACTIONS OF SADAT, ASAD, AND FAISAL.

8. KHATIB'S PLEA FOR US TO USE INFLUENCE TO STOP ISRAELI ACTIONS  
TO STRENGTHEN HOLD ON WEST BANK WAS NOT NEW BUT PUT IN MUCH  
STRONGER TERMS THAN EVER BEFORE. HE REFLECTED WIDESPREAD  
CONVICTION AMONG LOCAL ARABS THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF  
GIVING UP ANY SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF WEST BANK AND IS USING  
TIME WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION EFFECTIVELY  
STYMIED TO ENTRENCH ITSELF IN SUCH WAY AS TO MAKE ACCEPTABLE  
TERRITORIAL AGREEMENT WITH ANY ARAB NEGOTIATING PARTNER  
IMPOSSIBLE. WHILE GOI AND ISRAELIS AS WHOLE OBVIOUSLY DIVIDED  
ON THIS QUESTION, IT APPEARS TO US THAT AT LEAST SOME GOVT  
MEMBERS (TO SAY NOTHING OF OPPOSITION) ARE INDEED MOTIVATED  
BY SUCH CONSIDERATION. END COMMENT.DAY

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